

**Public Works
Storm Water Utility**

(1) Program Title: Median Maintenance and Wildflower Program

(2) Division/Section: Vegetation Control

(3) Program Element:

- (a) TPDES**
 - 1. Roadways
 - 2. Pesticide, Herbicide & Fertilizer Applications

(4) Statement of Purpose:

This activity is associated with a TPDES permit requirement. The Permit's Storm Water Management Program Requirement (3) states that public streets and roads be operated and maintained in a manner to minimize pollutants. Since medians are a component of the road system, they are subject to the same requirements. The Permit's Storm Water Management Program Requirement (5) states that each permittee shall implement controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants related to the application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers applied by employees to public rights-of-way, parks and other municipal property. Floatable debris is removed from the medians as part of the maintenance activities. Vegetative cover holds the soil in place and reduces the sediment transport into local rivers and streams that can have a negative impact to water quality. Vegetative cover also helps promote local water quality by providing a filter for the water versus runoff that would occur as result of non-pervious material. The Wildflower Program while providing an esthetic quality to the surrounding area helps reduce the need for herbicide application to the medians to help control noxious weed growth. The wildflowers, during growth are a thick vegetative cover that has a natural life cycle from which they reseed themselves.

Weeds along street rights of way can reach over 6' tall causing a visual obstruction if not managed. Regular vegetation control reduces noxious weeds and visual obstructions.

(5) Description of Actions (Statement of Services):

Maintenance of medians consists of mowing and debris removal from 156 acres of city-owned medians.

Scheduled frequency of maintenance is 20 times per year. Mowing occurs during the growing season and excludes the months of November through February on medians without wildflowers. Medians with wildflowers are maintained by debris removal and spot mowing along gutter lines. These medians do not receive mowing while the wildflowers are in bloom and until after they seed, February through May. Five to seven species of native wildflowers are selected for planting. Personnel and equipment are assigned to one of three crews (North, Central and South).